

Matti Herrera Bower

First Woman Mayor

During last year's race for Miami Beach mayor, the so-called political experts said Matti Herrera Bower was a little spacey, a bit unpolished and didn't have a chance against the big money of former Commissioner Simon Cruz. They were all wrong. After knocking Cruz silly over his attempted \$180 million bailout of Mount Sinai Medical Center, Bower surfed a grassroots wave straight into the mayor's office, proving that money and string-pulling by establishment bigwigs isn't everything. She might be a grandma, but Bower isn't taking any crap from the Beach's backroom brokers.

Miami Beach's first female and the first Cuban-American mayor, 69-year-old Bower is having the time of her life at the city's helm, and she's keeping her promises to be the people's mayor.

Once a month, she hops behind the wheel of her big, old white Cadillac and drives her office out to the people as part of her Mayor on the Move initiative — if residents can't make it to City Hall, she goes to see them.

Bower also formed the Mayor's Gay Business Development Ad Hoc Committee earlier this year to help strengthen the Miami Beach gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, which is being lost to other cities such as Fort Lauderdale.

Now, the building department had better watch out: Most recently, Bower formed the Transparency, Reliability and Accountability Committee to shine a light in the dark nooks and crannies of City Hall where crooks operate.

Bower — who became active in the community more than 30 years ago as, among other things, president of the Feinberg Fisher Elementary School, Nautilus Junior High and Miami Beach Senior High School Parent Teachers associations — spent eight years on the City Commission before becoming mayor.

Having harnessed the power of the people, Bower truly is a force in Beach politics.



							
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